



Testimony regarding: SB 415 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ACCELERATED REHABILITATION IN THE CASE OF ANIMAL ABUSE.

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing, March 21, 2016

Amy Harrell, President, CT Votes for Animals  
Vernon, CT resident

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for SB 415, *with changes* described below.

This bill as drafted would eliminate the use of accelerated rehab for **all** animal cruelty offenses - even those involving minor neglect or hoarding. In some of these less severe cruelty situations, accelerated rehabilitation programs may actually be more appropriate than fines or jail time. I believe we should continue to allow the courts to determine the most appropriate course of action for animal cruelty offenses of this nature.

The statute distinguishes between two levels of animal cruelty. The first level encompasses neglect and hoarding, and is described in 53-247(a). The second level is malicious, intentional cruelty, and is described in 53-247(b).

In SB 415, I request the language be modified so that AR is prohibited only for malicious, second level offenses. Thus:

or (10) to any person charged with a violation of section 53-247.

Would be changed to:

or (10) to any person charged with a violation of section 53-247(b).

Thank you.